

Friday  
DECEMBER 28, 2010

redeyechic.  
A Chicago Tribune  
publication

★ FREE ★



# THE CHICAGO CODE

**'TRANSFORMERS 3' + BLAGOJEVICH TRIAL  
+ MARATHON + LOLLA + LOTS MORE  
= THE YEAR IN CHICAGO  
PAGES 6-7**

**Northeast is on snow-verload 3**

**A bubbly for any NYE budget 14**

**2011: Year of Natalie Portman 22**



# BLAH, BLAH BLOGGERS

Visit RedEye's bloggerati at [redeyechicago.com](http://redeyechicago.com).



**Ernest Wilkins**  
*redeyechicago.com/remix*  
Staff party animal



**Brian Moore**  
*chicagonow.com/homers*  
RedEye's sports guru



**Tracy Swartz**  
*redeyechicago.com/goingpublic*  
Eye on the CTA

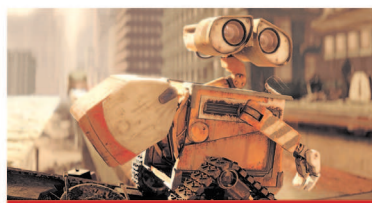


**What's the best gift you have received this holiday season?**

**Ernest (@remixchicago):** In order: an RC car, a laptop, and a Four Loko. I'm being serious.

**Brian (@redeyesportsguy):** Tracy showed me her puns.

**Tracy (@tracyswartz):** What's in the packages I received is under wraps.



**Make a prediction for 2011 involving robots.**

I will attempt to do the robot at various parties/events throughout the city. It will not go well.

Lovie Smith will not be fired by the Bears. What? He's an emotionless robot.

Our new mayor likely will have "Artificial Intelligence."



**Why was Chicago spared by the snowstorm that hit the Northeast?**

We've been getting crapped on by winter for years. Let them deal with it for once.

Spared? We've had snow on the ground for like a month straight now. We're good.

Chicago's on no one's radar.



**31<sup>18</sup>**

**TODAY'S FORECAST**

This time, the sun brings higher temps



**WED.**  
**33**  
29  
Getting warmer



**THU.**  
**39**  
37  
Buh-bye, piles of slush



**FRI.**  
**47**  
34  
It's a heat wave



**SAT.**  
**35**  
18  
Happy New Year!

## best bets

By Jessica Gallart  
*jgallart@tribune.com*

**For drinkers** *Prairie Fire, 215 N. Clinton St. 312-382-8300*  
Become a whiz behind the bar with this cocktail party and mixology demonstration. Prairie Fire's master mixologist Daniel Sviland will share tips and tricks to making killer drinks while you sip on \$5 mini-cocktails and snack on \$10 appetizer plates. 6-8 p.m. Prices vary

**For comedians** *Zanies Comedy Night Club, 1548 N. Wells St. 312-337-4027*  
Catch the Best of Chicago Showcase where 10 to 15 local, emerging comics yuk it up on stage. 8:30 p.m. \$25, plus two-item food or drink minimum

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NEW YORK

Who would ski through Times Square? This guy, after a blizzard dumped almost two feet of snow in the area. GETTY IMAGES



# Blizzard? Snow problem

## East Coast reeling from winter storm

**NEW YORK** Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Monday asked residents not to dial 911 unless calling about a life-threatening emergency, as edgy travelers faced difficult weather conditions stemming from the fifth-largest storm in New York City's history.

Blizzard conditions halted flights at New York's three major airports, slowed rail travel and continued to create treacherous conditions on roads from the Carolinas to Maine.

The storm brought high winds—up to 80 mph in parts of Massachusetts—and blinding snow to much of the East Coast beginning Sunday. Some places received more than 30 inches of snow.

Blizzard warnings remained in effect through Monday for much of coastal New England, where flooding was also a problem.

Here is a look at the day in photos. CNN



MASSACHUSETTS



NEW JERSEY

Under the watchful eye of an inflatable Santa Claus, Shawn Keefe (above) clears snow in Somerville. At left, the departure board at Newark's airport paints a grim picture.

REUTERS PHOTOS



CONNECTICUT

A man walks Monday with his dogs along a snow-covered beach in Westport. GETTY IMAGES

## A SPENDING SLOWDOWN

The blizzard, which shut down airports and halted traffic, kept many people away from malls, casting a pall on the final act of the holiday shopping season. Still, total holiday sales are predicted to rise significantly from 2009 and represent the best spending in three years. MarketWatch says the overall impact on the bottom line should be minor once residents dig out and return to the malls.

REUTERS





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# Glancing into the CTA's future

Between service cuts and employee layoffs, the CTA should be glad to close the book on 2010. Looking ahead to the coming year, Going Public created a crib sheet of 10 hot CTA topics for 2011.

» **Track stars:** This year, the train tracker underwent a second pilot at some CTA stations, which saw arrival information posted on electronic displays. CTA president Rich Rodriguez says a train tracker announcement is due before 2010 ends.

» **Need for speed:** 2011 is all about BRT, which stands for "bus rapid transit." The CTA has received grants to develop express bus service on Jeffery Boulevard and for a route that would connect Union Station and Navy Pier. Work reportedly is slated for early next year.

» **Bling in the new year:** Construction will continue on one new stop along the Green and Pink lines and one along the Yellow Line. Renovations to two Red Line stops should wrap in 2011, according to the CTA.

» **Cut off:** After cuts in February, riders got relief in September, when Rodriguez introduced a budget with no service cuts or fare increases for 2011. But riders shouldn't hold their breath for long. The CTA's deal with Gov. Quinn not to raise fares in exchange for \$83 million in bond proceeds expires next year, which may mean fare hikes in 2012.

» **Credit check:** In September, the CTA asked organizations for proposals on how to implement and operate an open fare collection system that offers contactless credit and debit card payment options. Submissions are due in January.

» **The name game:** After a successful venture with Apple, which financed the recent renovations to the North/Clybourn Red Line stop, Rodriguez invited suggestions for other business partnerships and said he is open to selling naming rights to CTA entities.

» **Head hunting:** Next year Chicago will elect its first new mayor in 22 years, and he or she may choose to install new agency heads. Rodriguez, president since March 2009, and CTA board chairman Terry Peterson are longtime Mayor Daley wunderkinds.

» **Bad row-mance:** The CTA will continue to test its new rail cars, which feature electronic enhancements and controversial aisle-facing seats, through the spring.

» **That's Wacker:** Thirteen bus routes, about one-tenth of the bus system, will see changes to their routing and/or bus stop locations starting next week because of Wacker Drive construction.

» **In the zone:** The CTA implemented slow zones on the Orange Line in April so it could fix problems with the line's signal system. The zones reportedly are set to be eliminated in the spring.



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# coverstory

**7** weeks

» Length of the Blagojevich trial

**14** days

» Length of jury deliberations



**50**

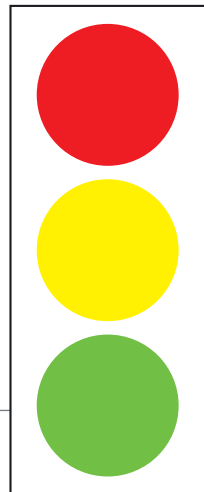
» Number of aldermen seats up for election

**20**

» Number of mayoral candidates to file

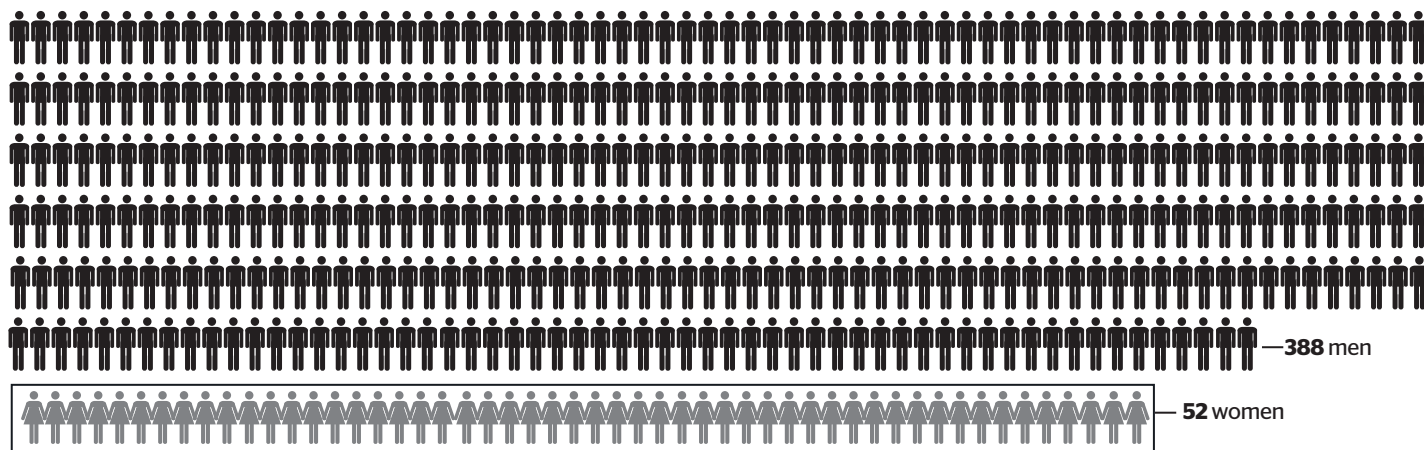
**\$63.5** million

» Revenue from red light camera tickets in 2010



**440**

« Total number of homicides, as of Monday, according to preliminary police data



## CHICAGO'S

# TOP 10 LIST

### A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

By Kyra Kyles | REDEYE

It's almost time to say so long to 2010.

Time to break out some bubbly, toss a little confetti and go through the annual motions of joining a gym or swearing off smoking for the umpteenth time.

But before we do that, let's give this year a proper burial with a number-centric blast through Chicago's 2010 past.

Check out this RedEye roundup of data points cutting across sports, entertainment, crime and (gah!) red light tickets for 2010. Then, seriously, sign up for the gym. And actually go this time.

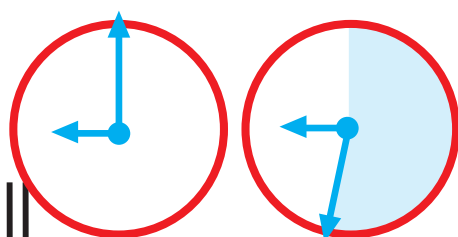


**134**

« Number of restaurants to make Metromix's "New on the Scene" list, including **Grahamwich**

**20**

« Number of new tavern licenses granted.



**31.9** minutes

» Average commute in Cook County

**25.2** minutes

» National average

**1.7** million

» Estimated number of spectators for the 2010 Chicago Marathon







7

« Number of studio features filmed in Chicago, including "Transformers 3" and "The Dilemma"



20

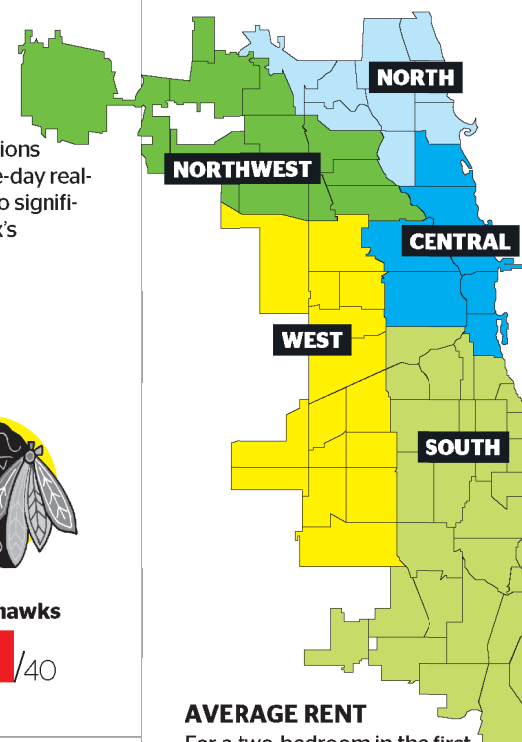
« Number of independent films, including "Shakey" and "Columbiana"

42

« Number of TV projects: productions ranging from one-day reality show shoots to significant network shoots, including Fox's "Chicago Code."

\$984

» Average rental price for a Chicago apartment for the first quarter of 2010, compared with \$982 for that same period last year.



## AVERAGE RENT

For a two-bedroom in the first quarter of 2010 for each region:

**NORTH**  
\$1,115

**NORTHWEST**  
\$911

**CENTRAL**  
\$1,561

**WEST**  
\$779

**SOUTH**  
\$910

## NUMBER OF WINS/LOSSES FOR CHICAGO TEAMS IN 2010



Sox  
**88**<sub>/74</sub>



Cubs  
**75**<sub>/87</sub>



Fire  
**9**<sub>/12</sub>



Bears  
**11**<sub>/4</sub>



Bulls  
**48**<sub>/38</sub>



Blackhawks  
**61**<sub>/40</sub>



130 hours

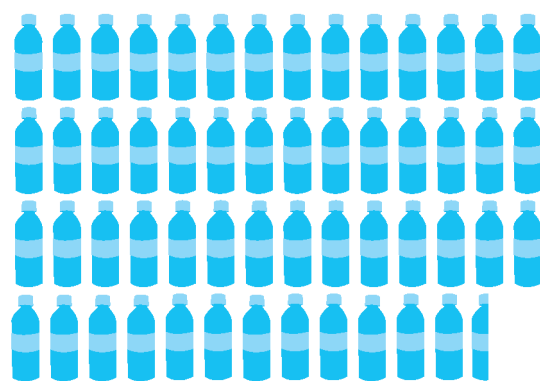
» Total performance time at this summer's Lollapalooza in Grant Park. There were 152 performances (some artists performed more than once)

310 tons



» Approximate amount of trash collected at the Taste of Chicago

Approximately **12 percent** of trash collected was recycled



54,600

» Number of gallons of water distributed along the Chicago Marathon course on Oct. 10

=1,000 gallons



# chicago



Firefighters union chief Tom Ryan (left) and Chicago Fire Commissioner Tom Hoff return to the funeral home Monday after speaking to the media while other members of the Chicago Fire Department wait in line to attend the wake for Edward Stringer. **NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE**

## Firefighters pay respects

Mourners honor Edward Stringer, who was killed last week in South Side building collapse

### Chicago Tribune

An oversize American flag hanging from an extended fire ladder could be seen blocks away from the Blake Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn, where hundreds of Chicago firefighters were lined up Monday to pay their respects to fallen comrade Edward Stringer.

Although some who waited in line to enter the funeral home, like Lt. Sebastian Straughter from Engine 103 in the West Loop, spoke of the poor condition of the abandoned building where Stringer and fellow firefighter Corey Ankum died Wednesday, others were still in a state of shock over what they called an unavoidable accident.

"If laying blame could cause this not to happen in the future, then it would be a different story. But it's going to happen ... there's nothing that we could have done differently," said fire engineer Steve Serb as he was getting into his car across the street from the visitation. "That's one of the sad things. But it's also one of the gratifying things that there aren't different steps that we could have taken."

### FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The funeral Mass for Edward Stringer will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel, 7740 S. Western Ave., Chicago. Visitation for Corey Ankum will be from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Apostolic Church of God, 6320 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago. The wake will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. at the church.

As the investigation into the blaze in the 1700 block of East 75th Street continues, firefighters from around the Chicago area dressed in their finest uniforms and winter coats, a tradition painfully familiar to many in attendance. Standing in the frigid cold, many were reminded to count their blessings in their often dangerous job. About four months ago, firefighters gathered at the same funeral home to mourn the death of Christopher Wheatley, who died in August after falling 35 feet while fighting a restaurant fire.

Bud Cascone, who worked at Midway Airport when he retired in 2002, stood in a line that at times wrapped around the funeral home.

In Cascone's nearly three-decades-long career with the department, he has seen his share of tragedy.

"I don't know this guy from Adam. But it's a brotherhood," Cascone said of his show of support Monday.

Family members were inside the funeral home and did not want to talk to the news media, fire Commissioner Bob Hoff said.

Neither did colleagues from Stringer's engine company.

"We don't want to overcrowd them. But we want them to know that we're there," Hoff said inside the funeral home. "Everybody's having a tough time with it. But we're here to support each other, and everybody will get through it. The most important people we're focusing on right now are the family members. We're here for them, for whatever they need, not just for today or tomorrow, but for as long as it takes."

### FDA issues sprout warning

The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning Monday for consumers to avoid alfalfa sprouts and spicy sprouts that were grown on a farm in Urbana, Ill., because of a suspected link to salmonella.

### Investigation in Ukrainian Village

Chicago police determined Monday evening that a suspicious package in Ukrainian Village was not dangerous. The package was discovered about 5:30 p.m. in the area of Chicago and Damen avenues, and Chicago Avenue was closed down between Damen and Wood Street. The street was opened again by about 7:15 p.m.

### Police report: 153 bras stolen

According to a Northbrook police report, 153 bras were stolen from Victoria's Secret between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Dec. 20. The bras' total value was estimated at \$9,675, an average of more than \$63 each.

### Davis promises transparency

Mayoral candidate U.S. Rep. Danny Davis on Monday slammed Mayor Daley's style of running City Hall and said he would make Chicago government more transparent and open if he's elected next year.

### 6 hurt in crash

Six people were hurt Monday in a two-car crash on the West Side. The crash happened about 12:35 p.m. at Chicago and Cicero avenues in Austin.

### Purple Line fire

Service on northbound Purple Line tracks was halted temporarily Monday morning after a small track fire near the Main Street Station in Evanston. The fire broke out about 7:15 a.m. Service resumed by 7:40 a.m., the CTA said. **TRIBUNE**



**Red alert**

**1** Catalan police officers march Monday after the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected head of the Catalan regional government in Barcelona. **GETTY IMAGES**

**Day at the beach**

**2** A woman keeps an eye on a boy Monday as he plays on the beach in Tel Aviv during an unusually warm day. **GETTY IMAGES**

**Praying for peace**

**3** Women attend a prayer for peace gathering Monday in the Ivory Coast as the nation teters on the verge of a civil war. **GETTY IMAGES**

# Blast sends sewage into Kankakee River

**4** **KANKAKEE, Ill.** An explosion at a wastewater treatment plant in Kankakee on Monday morning sent thousands of gallons of sludge and raw sewage into the Kankakee River, prompting a massive cleanup effort to plug the leak and stop the spread downstream.

The Illinois state EPA, which dispatched an inspector to the site mid-day, said the spill appeared to be contained within a half-mile or so of the rupture and that area drinking water was not affected. Because boaters, fishermen and kayakers don't frequent that icy stretch of the river in winter, the threat to public health is believed to be minimal, officials said.

"We do not believe there is an imminent public health threat," said EPA spokeswoman Maggie Carson.

The impact on the environment is another matter, Carson said, and over the next couple of days the EPA will monitor this section of the river about 60 miles south of Chicago to determine whether fish and other wildlife were affected.

Late in the day Monday, crews from the EPA, Nicor Gas, ComEd and other local and state agencies were trying to determine the extent of the spill, which had been flowing out of at least one 1 million-gallon holding tank at the treatment center for more than five hours. The sludge contained raw sewage, water from area toilets and showers, snow melt and other nonhazardous liquids, Carson said.

Officials are looking into what sparked the blast. Kankakee Fire Department Chief Ron Young said methane, which is highly flammable, likely contributed to the explosion.



A wall at a Kankakee wastewater treatment facility was turned into rubble Monday after an explosion. **ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE**

**Amazon touts Kindle sales**

**5** **Amazon.com** said sales of its Kindle e-reader were strong over the holiday season amid competition from devices such as Apple's iPad. The company said the most recent version of Kindle was its best-selling product ever.

**Assange book in the works**

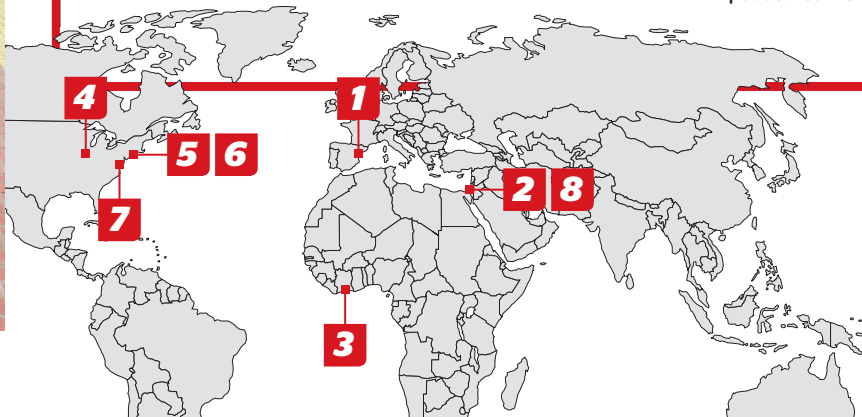
**6** WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's new memoir will give a full account of his life and the secretive group that has leaked large amounts of documents, U.S. publisher Alfred A. Knopf said Monday.

**Majority against bill component**

**7** As a key component of the nation's new health care law requiring all Americans to buy insurance faces an uncertain fate in federal courts, a new poll indicates that a majority of Americans oppose that provision in the bill Congress passed earlier this year.

**Interim peace deal outcome?**

**8** An interim Israeli-Palestinian peace deal could be an outcome if the parties fail to reach agreement on major core issues in peace talks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday.

**THE DIGIT****5 terms**

When Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) is sworn in for a fifth term in January, she will become the longest-serving woman in Senate history, breaking the 24-year record held by the late Republican Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine.



**spo**

**Minnesota  
at Philadelphia**  
7 p.m. Tuesday, NBC

**Brett Favre**  
GETTY IMAGES

As charmed as the Bears have been this season, their NFC North rival Minnesota Vikings have been equally cursed. Nothing has gone right for them from the get-go in 2010. Tuesday night's game—the first in the NFL since 1946—in Philadelphia is a symbol of their misfortune. Here's a look back at their crappy holidays and more. **REDEYE**

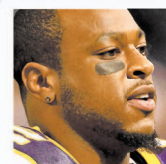
# SEASON'S BEATINGS

**THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS HAVE BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF CURSED THIS YEAR**



## **SIDNEY RICE SIDELINED**

The Vikings' Pro Bowl receiver started the season injured after having hip surgery, robbing returning quarterback Brett Favre of his No. 1 receiver. Other than Jenn Sterger, that is.



## **PERCY HARVIN'S HEADACHES**

Has missed numerous practices and two games because of migraine headaches. That's understandable. Playing for the Vikings would give lots of people headaches.

## **FAVRE'S, AHEM, LITTLE DRAMA**

Favre has played under the threat of suspension by the NFL after news of a scandal involving texts and voice mails with former N.Y. Jets sideline reporter Jenn Sterger surfaced. That sort of thing might be against the NFL's personal conduct policy. Imagine that.



# Our cup runneth over in 2010

On June 9, I was sitting alone in the top row of the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia as Patrick Kane sprinted down the ice with his arms raised.

No one knew what was going on, least of all me from my prime seat among 20,000 Flyers fans. But the Blackhawks had just won the Stanley Cup. And all I could do is look around confused.

Did this just happen?

Even now when I look back, it doesn't seem real. Sure, I have the jersey soaked with Champagne, the ticket stub and more than a few threats from Philadelphians I haven't quite forgotten. Yet it still feels like a dream.

But the Blackhawks winning the Cup is the way I'll remember 2010, just like we talk about '85, '05, most of the '90s, or um, 1908. For a week in June, the whole city stopped and partied.

I'll generalize on behalf of all people, but 2010 pretty much sucked. People lost their jobs or couldn't find jobs, and even those who did struggled. I mean, the thing that made people happiest was a video of a guy talking about his sister getting attacked in her bedroom. But this summer, the only thing that mattered was the location of the Cup.

Chicago fans tend to suffer more than most (or at least gripe about it more than most). So the Hawks' incredibly fast rise to success didn't seem possible. We'd given up on them years ago and just got back into them. How could we possibly be spoiled with a Stanley Cup for the first time since before anyone knew about The Beatles?

And just like that, it was all gone. The joy of the Cup win was quickly dismantled as the Hawks sent our newfound heroes to various cities across North America (but mostly to the hockey hotbed of Atlanta). And everyone awoke from the dream.

Did it all actually happen? It doesn't feel like it anymore. But all is not lost. There's a football team in Chicago with an impossibly good record that might make 2011 pretty memorable too.

SCOTT BOLOHAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



**Scott Bolohan**

chicagonow.com/  
straighttolaquite

Snow surrounds the Metrodome, where the inflatable roof collapsed under the weight of snow during a storm earlier this month.

GETTY IMAGES



GETTY IMAGES

## SNOW PROBLEM

Another snowstorm, another postponement. This time, the Vikings game in Philadelphia was moved from Sunday night to Tuesday night because of a blizzard that dropped more than a foot of snow on the City of Brotherly Love.

## SNOW PLACE LIKE DOME

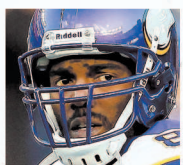
As the Vikings' season was collapsing, their field was literally collapsing. Under the weight of 17 inches of snow, the Metrodome's inflatable roof caved in Dec. 12, forcing the team to play their scheduled "Monday Night Football" game on Dec. 20 outside at TCF Bank Stadium.

## DETROIT 'HOME' GAME

In the wake of the Metrodome collapse, the Vikings were forced to play their home game against the N.Y. Giants at Ford Field in Detroit. Double whammy: They didn't get a true home game and they had to play in Detroit.

## FAVRE KO'D

When the Vikings and Bears finally were able to play that Monday night game, Favre looked good early before being knocked out with a head injury suffered during a sack by Corey Wootton (above). We will resist the urge to make a "Favre in the sack" joke here.



## RANDY MOSS' MESS

With Rice out and Harvin ailing, the Vikings traded for New England receiver Randy Moss. The relationship lasted just a few weeks, with reports of Moss questioning the team's game plan. He probably was right.



## COACHING CHANGEUP

Reports of locker-room disdain for Vikings coach Brad Childress surfaced throughout the season, and after a 31-3 blowout to Green Bay on Nov. 21 he was fired. Happy Thanksgiving, Brad.

# WHAT DOES A BYE WEEK MEAN TO THE BEARS?

## Chicago Tribune

The Packers' goal is clear heading into Sunday's game at Lambeau Field: Defeat the Bears and they are in the playoffs.

The Bears' pursuit is a little less dramatic: A win will secure a first-round bye, provided the Eagles don't do it for them by falling on their faces Tuesday night against the Vikings.

But what does the bye mean? The Bears are as healthy as any playoff contender, so it's not like they have a training room full of sprains and bruises to heal.

"I'd look at it as another chance for us to take another big step when you get a little bit of time off this time of the season," coach Lovie Smith said Monday. "That's why the bye is so important. Injuries play such a big part in

a team's success right now."

Statistics show the bye hasn't meant as much in recent years. Since the NFL expanded the playoffs to 12 teams in 1990, 59 of the 80 teams with a bye (73.8 percent) have reached the conference championship game. But in the past seven years, only 16 of 28 (57.1 percent) with a bye have played for the conference title.



# 1 to go

Courtney King works the sidelines for the Rockford Ice Hogs, which means she's cool all year round.



TOPIC	BRIAN MOORE <a href="#">@redeyesportsguy</a>	SCOTT BOLOHAN <a href="#">twitter.com/scottbolohan</a>	JERRY RILES <a href="#">@jerryriles</a>	COURTNEY KING <a href="#">@courtsportking</a>	BAG BOY <a href="#">redeyesports@tribune.com</a>
1 Only one week remains in the NFL regular season and I feel ...	... Brett Favre is returning next season. He's got a lot more sideline reporters to text.	... like I'm the only girl in the world.	... I need to win both my pools to break even for the season.	... like the Grinch that stole Christmas.	... like this Bears season has all been a dream. Except Chester Taylor. He's still asleep, apparently.
2 Why has the Bears offense been so effective the past two games?	Jay Cutler found his big-boy pants.	The Patriots were playing elsewhere.	Because their real opponents were home for the holidays. Season greetings.	God.	Terrible defenses.
3 Having Marty Turco as your backup goaltender is like ...	... having Antti Niemi as your backup goaltender.	... having a real-life Julie "The Cat" Gaffney.	... last season. Just pray it all comes together by the playoffs.	... Jonathan Toews on the fourth line.	... having Natalie Portman as your backup girlfriend.
4 Sum up Patrick Kane's itinerary while he was on injured reserve.	What do I look like, his GPS unit?	Rockit, Cubby Bear, Casey Moran's, McGees ...	Taxi to Rush Street. Take a shot. Taxi to South Loop. Take a shot. Taxi to Madison Street. Take a shot at a cabbie.	Rehab.	Not on the ice. That's all that matters.
5 How are Chicago's baseball teams spending the holidays?	Hopefully forgetting most of what happened this past season.	Not winning.	Who cares? Will they be able to hit and pitch come springtime?	Self-reflecting.	Getting a jump start on being mathematically eliminated from the playoffs.

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**Patrick Kane**  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

# Yes, he Kane

Patrick Kane is likely to rejoin the lineup and Marty Turco will get his second straight start in goal when the Blackhawks seek their fifth victory in a row Tuesday in St. Louis.

Coach Joel Quenneville said he was pleased with Kane's patience while recovering from a left ankle injury and his effort during practice Monday at the United Center.

"He skated pretty well today and felt good," Quenneville said.

Kane, who participated in full drills, seemed a bit more cautious about whether he would play his first game since Dec. 5.

"I'm going to skate [Tuesday] morning and then we'll make a decision after that," he said. "I would say it's pretty probable."

Kane, who has 11 goals and 16 assists in 28 games,

## CRAWFORD ON THE ICE

Corey Crawford practiced Monday and said he was feeling much better after being hit by a nasty flu bug. "Today was pretty tough, my timing was off, but I'm sure I'll be fine tomorrow," said Crawford, who took ill Friday.

Crawford's recovery combined with a hot Marty Turco might create a dilemma for coach Joel Quenneville. "It's a great situation to be in when both guys are playing well," he said.

said the injury and recovery process came at an opportune time.

"I'm pretty happy with where I'm at," he said. "It's a long season, and if there's any time ... to be injured, it's right now because down the stretch you want to be healthy."

» Injured Bulls center Joakim Noah will begin some rehabilitation this week after spending time with family and friends in New York.

» Boston Celtics center Shaquille O'Neal was fined \$35,000 on Monday by the NBA for criticizing referees. In a postgame interview after scoring two points and fouling out in Boston's 86-78 loss to Orlando on Christmas, O'Neal blasted the game's officiating and singled out veteran referee Bob Delaney.

## FINAL SCORE

» Missouri 97, N. Illinois 61  
» Milwaukee agrees to a one-year deal with right-handed relief pitcher Takashi Saito.



## triple dog dare

**WHIZZER**  
twitter.com  
/redeyewhizzer

Holiday tourneys are some of the best things about this time of year. My favorite? Beer pong. Here now, my picks. Let's see yours.

### 1 Bulls vs. Milwaukee 7 p.m. CSN+

**Bulls 87, Bucks 80.** Bucks are without their leading scorer. Sorry, the Bulls don't sympathize.

### 2 Blackhawks at St. Louis 7 p.m. WGN

**Hawks 5, Blues 3.** The score might not add up to more than the number of fights in this bitter rivalry.

### 3 DePaul vs. Cincinnati 6 p.m. ESPN3

**Bearcats 80, Blue Demons 69.** The word "maul" would be appropriate here.

## txtable

To challenge Whizzer, go to <http://bit.ly/homersblog> or text "whiz" followed by your picks to **87708**. Don't forget your name.



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# metromix

## On the Bubbly

7 GREAT BOTTLES TO POP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Susan Oh

Attending a New Year's Eve party without Champagne is like showing up to prom without a date. While most top-drawer luxuries come with a hefty price tag, Champagne and sparkling wine offer a range of prices that are surprisingly affordable. We talked to local connoisseurs for recommendations that are sure to please, no matter what you spend.

### Bellavista Franciacorta Brut

**Price:** \$51 at Davanti Enoteca, 1359 W. Taylor St. 312-226-5550

**Claim to fame:** "It is simply a delicious, well-produced brut," says Patrick Barnes, general manager of Davanti Enoteca. It's considered by some to be Italy's finest response to Champagne.

### Santa Julia Brut Rose or Emeri Sparkling Shiraz

**Price:** \$14.99 each at Kafka Wine, 3325 N. Halsted St. 773-975-9463

**Claim to fame:** At this price it's better to go for something extra special, owner Joe Kafka says. He describes Emeri as "full-bodied and spicy, with the bubbles unexpected," while the Santa Julia, new to the U.S., is a darker rosé that's "fruit-forward on the palate but still dry."

### Laurent Perrier Brut NV

**Price:** \$43.99 at Kafka Wine, 3325 N. Halsted St. 773-975-9463

**Claim to fame:** Kafka praises this classic as "yummy and scrumptious with just a bit of mineral snap." Great for those who want to bring something different to a party full of Veuve Clicquot.

### Brouwerij Bosteels Deus

**Price:** \$29.99-\$40 at Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar, 960 W. 31st St. 773-890-0588

**Claim to fame:** The true champagne of beer—sorry, Miller!—it's neither a brew nor sparkling wine, but a hybrid of both, with delicate bubbles and a light cherry taste. That's what Ed Marszewski, co-owner of Maria's, will be drinking this NYE. "Champagne is just for opening and spilling on people," Marszewski says. "Deus is really different and exciting."

### Albrecht Cremant Lucien Rose

**Price:** \$23 at The Noble Grape, 802 N. Bishop St. 312-846-1204

**Claim to fame:** Alex Basich of The Noble Grape warns not to let the bubbles fool you in this dry rosé from the Alsatian region of France: "It's round, dry and delicious."

### Chateau Renni Cava

**Price:** \$14.99 at Life's A Cabernet, 1937 W. North Ave. 773-360-5526

**Claim to fame:** This bottle is executive sommelier Christopher Libby's go-to value choice: "It's on the drier side, crisp with nice minerality and easy to drink."

### Bitch Bubbly

**Price:** \$12.99 at Just Grapes, 560 W. Washington Blvd. 312-627-9463

**Claim To Fame:** "Doesn't the name say it all?" asks Ben Degroot of Just Grapes. It's been that kind of a year—pop open this bottle and let the good times roll.

SUSAN OH IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS





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<p><b>DOWNTOWN</b> <b>312.357.9753</b> 100 South Wacker Drive (Enter on Wacker &amp; Montrose or Wacker &amp; Adams Lower Level Concourse) Chicago, IL 60613</p>	<p><b>PILSEN</b> <b>312.491.8700</b> 1822 S. Bishop   Chicago, IL 60608 (2 Blocks East of Ashland Ave. located between 18th &amp; 19th)</p>
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### ABERDEEN TAP

\$4 wings;  
440 N. Aberdeen St.  
312-929-3845.

### CELTIC CROWN

Free wings with drink  
purchase (4-7 p.m.);  
4301 N. Western Ave.  
773-588-1110.

### CITIZEN BAR

\$5 pizzas; 364 W. Erie  
St. 312-640-1156.

### CROSSROADS PUBLIC HOUSE

\$8.99 all-you-can-eat  
jumbo wings; 2630 N.  
Clark St. 773-248-3900.

### THE DARK HORSE TAP AND GRILLE

25 cent wings with  
one-drink minimum;  
3443 N. Sheffield Ave.  
773-248-4400.

### FAT CAT

25 cent wings  
(limit 15);  
4840 N. Broadway.  
773-506-3100.

### FOUR FARTHINGS TAVERN AND GRILL

\$.35 cent wings;  
2060 N. Cleveland Ave.  
773-935-2060.

### GRAMI

\$6 all pizzas;  
160 E. Grand Ave.  
312-755-9645.

### HALSTED HARP

10 wings for \$3;  
2138 N. Halsted St.  
773-348-3665.

### HIGH DIVE

25 cent wings;  
1938 W. Chicago Ave.  
773-235-3483.

### JOE'S BAR

Half-price pizzas  
(5-9 p.m.);  
940 W. Weed St.  
312-337-3486.

### JOHN BARLEYCORN

\$7 14-inch pizzas with  
one topping,  
\$7 32 ounce domestic  
pitchers, \$7 two pound  
bucket of chicken

wings; 658 W. Belden  
Ave., 773-348-8899.

### KENDALL'S PUB

30 cent jumbo  
wings (4-10 p.m.): Food  
specials are dine-in  
only and require one  
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2263 N. Lincoln Ave.  
773-348-7200.

### KINCADE'S

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wings (4-10 p.m.): Food  
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only and require one  
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950 W. Armitage Ave.  
773-348-0010.

### MAC'S

25 cent buffalo or jerk  
chicken wings (5 p.m.);  
1801 W. Division St.  
773-782-4400.

### O'DONOVAN'S

30 cent wings: One  
drink minimum for  
food specials;  
2100 W. Irving Park Rd.  
773-478-2100.

### BECKETT'S PUBLIC HOUSE

35 cent wings;  
3210 N. Lincoln Ave.  
773-880-9620.

### PLYMOUTH RESTAURANT & BAR

\$10 buffalo wings (20  
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Ct. 312-362-1212.

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pizzas; 3525 N. Clark St.  
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quired for wings.  
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312-949-0120.



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312-929-2779.

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\$6.49 wings baskets;  
622 N. Fairbanks Ct.  
312-642-0700.

### TUMAN'S

25 cent jumbo Buffalo  
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Ave. 773-782-1400.

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6	2	5	7	4	3	9	8	1
7	9	8	5	1	2	6	3	4
4	3	1	6	9	8	7	5	2
3	6	9	1	8	7	4	2	5
5	8	2	4	6	9	3	1	7
1	7	4	3	2	5	8	6	9
8	4	7	2	5	6	1	9	3
2	1	6	9	3	4	5	7	8
9	5	3	8	7	1	2	4	6

**MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

L	A	D		C	H	A	F	E		A	M	M	O	
I	D	O	L		H	O	G	A	N		P	A	I	N
E	A	S	E		E	R	O	D	E		L	U	L	U
	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R		O	L	D	S
		S	A	S				G	U	M				
S	T	O	O	G		B	R	I	S	B	A	N	E	
E	A	R	N	S		C	R	A	Z	E		P	A	N
A	L	A	S		S	H	I	N	E		V	O	I	D
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		N	I	L			K	I	E	V				
T	E	N	D		B	L	A	N	D	N	E	S	S	
O	V	E	R		O	I	L	E	D		T	O	I	L
M	E	R	E		A	N	G	E	L		Y	O	I	L
B	R	O	W		T	E	A	S	E		L	O	G	

**ACROSS**

- 1 Desert animal  
6 Keep — on; watch carefully  
10 Smudge  
14 Entertain  
15 Toe the line  
16 Bring up  
17 Pilgrimage destination  
18 Abound  
19 At —; relaxed  
20 Improved; beautified  
22 Atlanta team  
24 "The Hamelin" — Piper of  
25 Millay or Angelou  
26 Straighten  
29 One worshipped in a mosque  
30 Ocean  
31 "Gone With the Wind" actor  
33 Passes out cards  
37 Snakelike fishes  
39 Pass on, as a message  
41 Let fall  
42 Reverie  
44 Fence entries  
46 Actress Lupino  
47 Sullen  
49 House painter's need  
51 Ripple in the water  
54 — on; incite  
55 Chairperson's outline  
56 Slaughter  
60 Be concerned  
61 Grumpy one  
63 Shining  
64 Smooch  
65 House or hovel  
66 Honking bird  
67 Singles  
68 12 months  
69 Go into

**DOWN**

- 1 Arrived  
2 "So be it!"  
3 " — Ado About Nothing"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21				22	23				
				24				25						
26	27	28				29								
30				31		32				33		34	35	36
37				38		39			40		41			
42				43		44				45		46		
				47		48				49		50		
51	52	53						54						
55						56						57	58	59
60						61	62				63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

- 4 Get away  
5 Tilting  
6 Carried  
7 Under the covers  
8 Buzzing insect  
9 Emblem  
10 — in; inhaled  
11 Depart  
12 Places of relief  
13 Lock of hair  
21 Fragrant wood  
23 Peruse  
25 Skirt fold  
26 Secondhand

- 27 —do-well; loser  
28 Bundle of hay  
29 Alleviate  
32 Have children, in bibli-cal terms  
34 Dry  
35 Ore deposit  
36 Ship's mast  
38 Uniformity  
40 High-pitched cries  
43 Shape  
45 Bratwurst, e.g.  
48 "Cool!" to a past generation

- 50 Komodo —; largest lizard  
51 Crazy  
52 Once more  
53 Poem division  
54 Heavy, —one-edged sword  
56 Child's first word, often  
57 Blood —; stroke causer  
58 Ascended  
59 Jug  
62 Caviar source

**MOTION PICTURE  
DIRECTORY**

♿ Handicapped Access ♦ Digital Sound ✓ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes ♯ Hearing - Impaired  
G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested  
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian  
PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

**600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)**

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago  
888-AMC-4FUN  
Show times change daily ♿

- **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) ♦ 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) ♦ 11:00, 12:15, 1:40, 2:45, 4:10, 5:15, 6:40, 7:45, 9:10, 10:15
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 10:25, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
- **True Grit** (PG-13) ♦ 10:50, 1:50, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10
- **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 11:20, 1:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 4:55, 7:30, 10:00
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** 3D (PG) 11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 6:50, 9:25
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 10:35, 1:45

**LANDMARK CENTURY  
CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)**

2828 North Clark St., Chicago  
(773) 509-4949

- **Rabbit Hole** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
- **Black Swan** (R) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45
- **The King's Speech** (R) 1:00, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:15, 9:20, 10:00
- **Somewhere** (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
- **I Love You Phillip Morris** (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

**CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)**

2600 N. Western Ave.  
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Gulliver's Travels** 3D (PG) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **Yogi Bear** 3D (PG) 10:50, 1:10, 3:40, 6:15, 8:45, 11:05
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** 3D (PG) 11:20, 2:05, 10:05
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 9:55, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:10
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 10:15, 11:00, 1:20, 2:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:20, 8:15, 10:15, 11:15
- **The Fighter** (R) 10:10, 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 8:00, 9:45, 11:00
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) (Open captioned) 10:40, 10:40
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40
- **Yogi Bear** 3D (PG) 9:50, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 11:55, 3:00, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** (PG) 4:45, 7:25
- **Tangled** (PG) 11:15, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 9:50

**DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)**

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago  
(773) 784-0893

- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) ★ 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
- **True Grit** (PG-13) ★ 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- **Black Swan** (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50

**FORD CITY 14 (AMC)**

S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago  
(888) AMC-4FUN  
Show times change daily

- **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) ♦ 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) ♦ 10:45, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
- **Tron: Legacy** (PG) ♦ 10:50, 12:15, 1:40, 3:05, 4:30, 5:55, 7:20, 9:00, 10:10
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35
- **Yogi Bear** 3D (PG) ♦ 12:30, 2:45, 4:50, 7:00, 9:25
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 11:05, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
- **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 10:55, 12:30, 1:35, 3:10, 4:25, 5:50, 7:05, 8:30, 9:50
- **Yogi Bear** (PG) ♦ 11:15, 1:35, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** (PG) 11:25, 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
- **Tangled** (PG) 11:40, 2:20, 5:05, 7:35, 9:55

**GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER**

164 State Street  
(312) 846-2800

- **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) 6:30 P.M.
- **Leaving** (NR) 8:00 P.M.
- **Helena From the Wedding** (NR) 6:15 P.M.

**LOGAN THEATRE**

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
(773) 252-0628

- **Burlesque** (PG-13) 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50
- **Megamind** (PG) 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10
- **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- **Faster** (R) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

**MUSIC BOX**

3733 N. Southport, Chicago  
(773) 871-6604

- **Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale** (R) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
- **All Good Things** (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

**PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)**

1608 N. Wells, Chicago  
(888) AMC-4FUN  
Show times change daily

- **Tees Maar Khan** (NR) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45
- **Fair Game** (PG-13) 7:00 P.M.
- **Inside Job** (PG-13) 2:45, 5:30, 8:15
- **The Social Network** (PG-13) 2:30, 5:15, 8:00
- **Despicable Me** (PG) 1:45, 4:40

**RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)**

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago  
(888) AMC-4FUN  
Show times change daily

- **AMC Independent The King's Speech** (R) 10:35, 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
- **AMC Independent The King's Speech** (R) ♦ 11:05, 1:55, 5:05, 8:10, 10:55
- **Gulliver's Travels** 3D (PG) ♦ 10:15, 12:35, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 10:10, 10:45, 11:45, 12:45, 1:25, 2:25, 3:25, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:05, 8:05, 9:05, 9:45, 10:45, 11:30
- **True Grit** (PG-13) ♦ 10:40, 11:40, 1:35, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55, 11:00
- **Tron: Legacy** (PG) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
- **AMC Independent Black Swan** (R) 11:50, 2:30, 4:25, 5:20, 7:25, 8:15, 10:15, 11:20
- **Yogi Bear** 3D (PG) ♦ 10:25, 12:40, 2:55, 5:25, 7:45, 9:50
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:55, 8:00, 10:00, 11:05
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 10:30, 11:20, 1:30, 2:15, 5:10, 7:55, 10:50
- **Yogi Bear** (PG) ♦ 11:55, 2:10
- **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 11:10, 1:50, 2:45, 4:45, 7:35, 8:25, 10:20
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** 3D (PG) 11:15, 2:05, 4:50, 7:50, 10:35
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 11:25, 4:35, 7:40, 10:25
- **Tangled** 3D (PG) 11:25, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:50, 6:05, 9:30
- **The Social Network** (PG-13) 11:35, 5:30, 11:10

**SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)**

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) 9:40, 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
- **AMC Independent The King's Speech** (R) 9:50, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 10:00, 11:20, 12:35, 2:00, 3:20, 4:40, 6:00, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00, 11:00
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 9:30, 10:55, 1:50, 3:15, 4:45, 6:15, 7:40, 9:10, 10:35
- **Tron: Legacy** (PG) 10:30, 11:30, 1:40, 2:40, 4:50, 5:50, 8:00, 9:00, 10:55
- **AMC Independent Black Swan** (R) 10:15, 1:05, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40
- **Yogi Bear** 3D (PG) 9:55, 12:15, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:55, 5:00, 6:30, 8:10, 9:35, 11:00
- **Tron: Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG) 9:45, 12:45, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
- **Yogi Bear** (PG) 11:15, 1:35, 4:05
- **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 10:50, 1:45, 4:55, 7:50, 10:50
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** 3D (PG) 11:45, 2:35, 5:40, 8:30
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 9:35, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:20, 10:55
- **Tangled** (PG) 10:25, 1:10, 3:45, 6:35, 9:15
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 9:30, 12:40, 3:50, 7:10, 10:40
- **Megamind** (PG) 12:25 P.M.

**WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)**

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 10:20, 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 12:15, 1:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:20
- **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 10:10, 1:15, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
- **Yogi Bear** (PG) 11:40, 2:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:10
- **The Fighter** (R) 11:20, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** 3D (PG) 10:40, 1:40, 9:50
- **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:10

**SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)**

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) 10:50, 1:15, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:35
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- **Tron: Legacy** (PG) 10:45, 12:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:35, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:25
- **True**



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# OH, BABY!

## 2011 ALREADY SHAPING UP TO BE A BIG YEAR FOR PORTMAN

It's good to be Natalie Portman. Fresh off an Oscar-worthy performance in "Black Swan," Portman is engaged to smokin'-hot choreographer Benjamin Millepied, whom she met on the set of "Black Swan," *and* expecting her first child, people.com confirmed Monday. Though Portman's reps did not reveal a baby due date or wedding date, 2011 already had the makings of a fantastic year for the actress. Let's take a look at what's on the agenda. **REDEYE**

**Natalie Portman**  
MCT FILE



**JAN. 16**

It's the Golden Globes. First test of the awards season.

**JANUARY**

Nothing like starting the year as the Vogue cover girl (the mag hit news stands this month).



**JAN. 21**

"No Strings Attached," a movie in which Portman and Ashton Kutcher play friends with bennies, hits theaters.



**JAN. 25**

Time to start gown shopping! The Oscar noms are announced, and everyone expects Portman to get a nod for best actress for her dark role in "Black Swan."

**FEB. 27**

And the Academy Award for best actress in a leading role goes to ...



**APRIL 8**

Portman keeps some good company in "Your Highness," a comedy adventure that also stars James Franco and Zooey Deschanel.



**MAY 6**

One word: "Thor." The movie adaptation of the Marvel comic arrives in time for summer blockbuster potential. Portman plays Jane Foster, who befriends the title hero on Earth.



**JUNE 9**

Portman turns 30. Give her an extra helping of cake—after all, she is eating for two.

**JUNE 10-DEC. 31**

Things get a little hazy in the second half of the year. Looks to us like a good time to get married and start a family.

SOURCES: IMDB.COM, OSCARS.ORG, VOGUE.COM

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MPV**  
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I MIRAGE 4DR**  
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CIVIC**  
4DR, Auto, Air, Green! Stk. #P15249A  
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**2004 CHEVY  
MALIBU**  
Full Power, Clean, Tan Stk. #P15245A  
**\$5,977\***



**2002 DODGE  
NEON**  
4 Dr., Nice, 49,000 Miles Stk. #P15168A  
**\$5,977\***



**2004 HYUNDAI  
TIBURON 2DR**  
Leather, Roof, Super Nice! Stk. #P15090A  
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SILVERADO**  
6 Cyl, Auto, Air, Nice! Stk. #P15222A  
**\$9,977\***



**2006  
MAZDA 3**  
Full Power, White! Stk. #MP15082  
**\$10,977\***



**2005 FORD  
ESCAPE 4x4**  
Red, Super Nice! S tk. #P15418  
**\$10,977\***



**2009 NISSAN  
SENTRA**  
4Cyl, PW, PL, Auto, Air! Stk. #P15347  
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**\$12,277\***



**2009 TOYOTA  
YARIS**  
4Dr, Pwr, Pkg., CD, Buckets! Stk. #XP15156  
**\$12,577\***



**2009 PONTIAC  
VIBE**  
Full Power, White, Nice! Stk. #MP15174  
**\$12,977\***



**2007 FORD  
F150 REG CAB**  
V6, Auto! Stk. #46673A  
**\$13,877\***



**2004 BUICK  
RENDEZVOUS**  
AWD, Leather, Roof, Nav! Stk. #P15400  
**\$13,977\***



**2007 FORD  
SPORT TRAC**  
Roof, Silver, V8, Nice! Stk. #48989A  
**\$13,977\***



**2005 JEEP  
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Leather, Roof, V8, Nice! Stk. #MP15265  
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Can somebody get Hugh Jackman (right) a stunt double? Less than two weeks after he was hurt performing a stunt for "The Oprah Winfrey Show" at the Sydney Opera House (left), the Aussie hottie took a wicked shot to the groin Sunday during a cricket exhibition. Jackman was wearing a foam cup at the time, [latimes.com](http://latimes.com) reports, though he gave his man area a cursory check. Adding insult to injury, cricket legend Shane Warne teased, "Don't rub 'em, count 'em." **GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS**



### They give, give, give

Who says celebs don't care? **Lady Gaga**, who publicly supported gay marriage and a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, nabbed the top spot on [dosomething.org](http://dosomething.org)'s list of the year's Top 20 Celebs Gone Good. Alicia Keys, who adopted a South African village and continued growing her HIV/AIDS charity, was No. 2. Rounding out the top five slots: No. 3 Taylor Swift, No. 4 Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore, and No. 5 Ellen DeGeneres. **REUTERS/FILE PHOTO**

### Million dollar mistake

Here's something for Fox to write on a Post-it Note: "Double-check game show answers!!!" After ruling a couple had incorrectly answered a question about Post-it Notes during last week's premiere of "Million Dollar Money Drop," the network admitted that it was wrong—and invited the contestants back, according to [thr.com](http://thr.com). There was no word Monday whether Gabe Okoye and Brittany Mayti have accepted the invitation.



### Happily Ever after

You can add **Alanis Morissette** to the list of celebs who are getting creative with their children's names. Ever Imre Morissette-Treadway was born Saturday to the Canadian rocker and husband, Mario "Souleye" Treadway. All are healthy and happy," a rep for Morissette told the

New York Daily News on Monday.

### Here come the brides

It's a wedding bonanza! Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied, LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian, and Ginnifer Goodwin and Joey Kern all confirmed in the past few days that they are engaged, according to [people.com](http://people.com). And there's more: Portman's reps also confirmed to [people.com](http://people.com) that she's pregnant. Better get those gift registries started.

» Turn to **Page 22** for more on a big year ahead for Portman.

### THE DIGIT

# 5,755

The number of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences members who were mailed nomination ballots Monday, according to [oscars.org](http://oscars.org). Completed ballots are due Jan. 14, and the nominees will be announced Jan. 25.



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